REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claim 1; claims 17, 18, and 19 have been added. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-13 and 16-19 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 3-13 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Stratford, *et al.* (US 6785558). In response, the Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. In addition, the Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to better define the intended scope of the claimed invention. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claim is respectfully requested.

The Applicant has amended independent claim 1 which now recites that the synchronization link includes a frequency distribution, a time distribution and an interface delay calibration. Support for this amendment is found on page 5, lines 3-30 of the Applicant's specification.

The Examiner cites col. 12, lines 17-50 of Stratford as disclosing a synchronization link. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. The Applicant's claimed invention includes an interface which includes a synchronization link. In contrast to a synchronization link as recited in claim 1, Stratford merely performs synchronization by piggybacking on the synchronization provisions already in place in the digital network (see col. 12, lines 19-23 of Stratford). Therefore, there is no synchronization link. Stratford relies on clock recovery based on a frame size which is inherent in the network. An example is given in Stratford where SONET frames are at a specified size and used to get timing information from the SONET framer (see col. 12, lines 24-33 of Stratford). The utilization of clock recovery techniques is not the same as a synchronization link.

To better define the scope of the claimed invention, the synchronization link has been defined to include a frequency distribution, a time distribution and an interface delay calibration. Stratford does not utilize a frequency distribution, a time distribution or an interface delay calibration in a synchronization link. Stratford merely discloses utilizing clock recovery techniques without the application of frequency distribution, time distribution or an interface delay calibration.

Thus, Stratford fails to teach each and every element as recited in independent claim 1. Furthermore, claims 3-13 and 16 depend from amended claim 1 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Therefore, the allowance of claims 1, 3-13 and 16 is respectfully requested.

In addition, the Applicant has added claims 17-19. Claim 17 recites that the frequency is distributed as a bit clock of the interface. Claim 18 recites that the time distribution includes a time strobe transferred over the interface. Claim 19 recites that the interface delay calibration fine-tunes a downlink transmitter diversity and an uplink signal combination. Support for these new claims is found on page 5, lines 3-30 of the Applicant's specification. Stratford also fails to disclose these limitations and therefore do not anticipate claims 17-19. Furthermore, claims 17-19 depend from amended claim 1 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Therefore, the allowance of new claims 17-19 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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